



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 03-05-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building

3/5/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib*	O'Riordan*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons	Morrisette	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Paul Bayer, Human Rights Commission members Kevin McGann (chair), Marlissa Brigggett, Christine Carney, Sheri Baron, Christine Deshler, Human Services Director Patsy Kraemer, Recreation Director Jon Jalbert, Public Works Director Teresa DeBenedictis.

MINUTES of 2/26/03 accepted. Unanimous

ARTICLE 56 APPROPRIATION/COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: McGann, using a handout, discussed the objectives and activities of the Human Rights Commission. The main objectives are to protect Arlington citizens from discrimination and to educate citizens about discrimination. He also provided a brief history of the first 10 years of activities. Of the \$5,000 appropriation, 60% is used to pay an employee to record complaints and 20% is used for printing. McGann said a 10% cut would not affect the complaint-handling activity. The Committee no longer receives State money for referrals from the State.

VOTED \$4,500. Unanimous.

REVISED BUDGET SPREADSHEETS: Tosti walked the Finance Committee through changes he has made recently to the spreadsheets. They include all reductions proposed so far, and the best info available on local aid in the Governor's proposed budget. The deficit is \$3 million. Page 3 of the spreadsheet shows the additional reductions each appointing authority must make. He also provided a preliminary copy of the FY04 budget recommendation, which shows the appropriations for the last three years. Tosti stated that he has provided this material to Town leaders and is working with them to develop a policy consensus. Foskett to request the Town Manager to update her three-year projection.

PLAYING FIELD USER FEES: Jalbert, using viewgraphs, described a plan to fund planned layoffs of three full-time parks maintenance staff through charging \$10 an hour for all in-town teams and \$35 an hour for all out-of-town teams. The layoffs total \$174,000, about 23% of the total parks budget. Jalbert's presentation was followed by an extensive Q&A session. Several Finance Committee members suggested the fee was too small. Some thought the schools should be exempt. Some suggested that the fee might encourage more responsible use of the fields. Police support to enforce use of permits is not possible without a bylaw to require a permit.

MOTION to exempt schools from fee failed, 3-13.

VOTED to support field user fees within the Recreation Enterprise Fund as proposed, to encourage rotation of fields, and to amend bylaws to require permits to use fields. Unanimous.

RETIREMENT BOARD: Foskett reported on discussions with the Chair. Alternative funding schedules are being

considered with varied budget impacts.

EFFECT OF LEAP YEAR ON SALARIES: DuBois to discuss this with the Manager.

COMMITTEE: No meeting next week. Next meeting Monday 3/17. Members asked to recommend fixed costs for votes. State of the Schools talk scheduled for tomorrow [postponed March 6 because of snow].

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard
Secretary 3/7/03

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1					10	2/19	2/19	bylaw chng	11-2
2					12	2/8	2/8	support	
3					13	2/19		no report	
4					14	2/19		no report	
5					15	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					16	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					20				Foskett
8					21				
9					22	2/19		no report	

